

Daniel Ojowi



Kabete ngombe is a place where I gained hands on experience, while working under Finlays Horticulture Kenya Limited. The journey started in 2005, when I enrolled to crop protection programme. I remember the first class was in plant pathology laboratory and ushered in to the world of crop protection by Prof John Kimenju then crop protection coordinator. He had a big heart as big as Kabete ngombe! Still does. Later I joined JKUAT for completion of the degree in crop protection and graduated in 2010.

Having gained knowledge in crop protection I found myself in the field of vegetable, herbs and salads under the guidance of Kiboi and Eric. The guys gave me an overwhelming support on day to day activities on the farm and it was superb. In 2010, I was back at Kabete ngombe again, but in different module of distance learning.

My experience as an ODL student at the University of Nairobi was very educative and enables me to develop a career in horticultural field. I was, particularly impressed with the cross disciplinary nature of the course that was well structured to allow balance and integration of career, family and individual progressive development. I achieved a wholesome development that has enabled me to be equipped academically in addition to enhancing my learned skills at my place of work. I began on my research project on integrated weed management in the first semester. My Thesis, was directed by Prof. Emmanuel Ariga, Prof. John Kimenju and Prof Ratemu Michieka studies in integrated weed management in carrot (*Daucas carrota* L.) production. The good balance of independent learning and classroom interaction with excellent contact with my classmates, many of whom bring a different perspective to the study topics was an opportunity for development. The programme is definitely designed to suit and advance ones career.

Other significant part of ODL (crop protection) experience was lecturing to weed science to diploma students on which it enabled me to be a trainer with Dudutech, a division of Finlays Horticulture were, where I was equipping over 6,000 trainees annually with knowledge and skills development on crop production and crop protection for Finlays Horticulture Group

and external clients. On this date 2014, am focusing on research and product development in the field of crop protection and nutrition with Dudutech limited. A member of British Agrochemical Standards Certification Scheme (BASIS) and advisor holding License No. E/6973/IFMV and Fertilizer Advisors Certification and Training Scheme (FACTS) license No. FE/5095/V. A professional Training of trainers (TOT) from Professional Trainers Association of Kenya.

I am proud and grateful forever to my family, classmates, lectures, ODL programme, and mentors, who made me to graduated in 2013 with a Masters degree in Crop protection. I made the choice and became part of the larger ODL community.

